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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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HONEY has many uses.

Honey--which was the main "sweet" supply of the world from earliest recorded time until well after the era of the Roman Empire--is in today's food picture as one of our most attractive and plentiful commodities.

Honey flavors and colors range all the way from the mild-flavored pale gold of sweetclover to the strong-flavored, dark-colored honey of cultivated buckwheat, and from the wine-red of the Appalachian tulip tree to the yellowish green of the California Thistle honey. Among the most famous American honeys are the amber-white clover honey of the Midwest, the sparkling sage honey of the Far West, and the delicately flavored orange blossom honey of Florida and California.

Largest single use of honey is by the baking industry, especially in breads of various kinds. During recent

years an increasing quantity of honey is being used by manufacturers of honey-coated cereals. Smaller quantities are used in the manufacture of confectionery, ice cream, beverages, honey-cured hams, jams, and jellies. Some non-food uses are in tobacco and cosmetics.

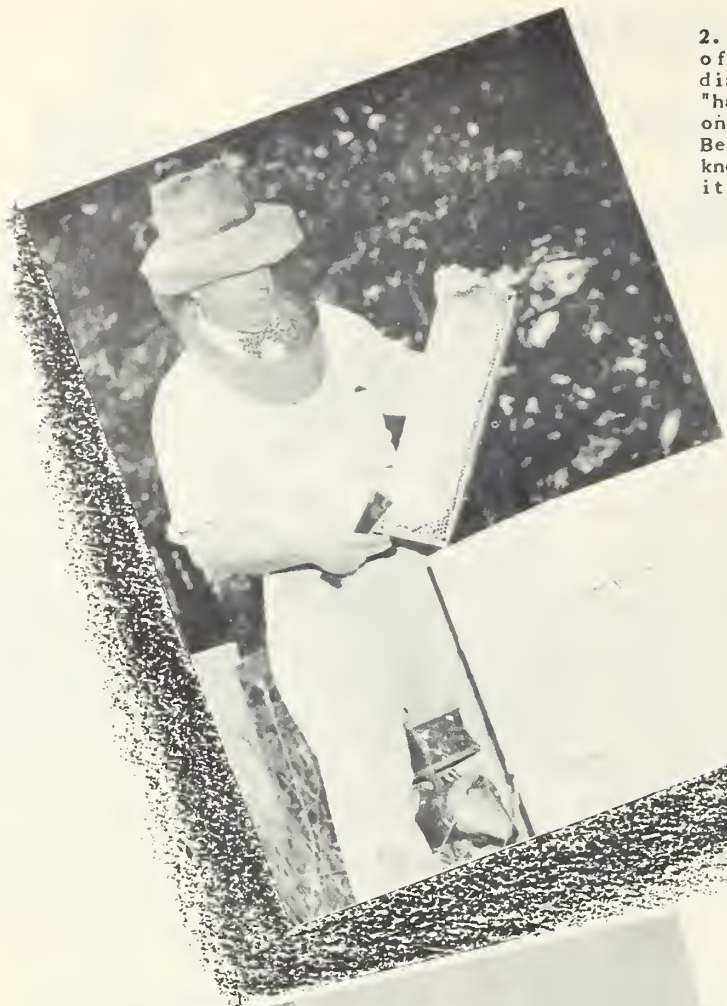
Invention of a mechanical extractor of honey about 100 years ago brought about a revolution in the beekeeping industry. Average yields greatly increased. Large-scale production of extracted honey was the result, but output of section-comb honey dropped sharply, because comb production was more costly and required more skillful beekeeping.

Beekeeping has an important part in the Nation's agriculture. At least 50 agricultural crops are dependent upon honeybees for pollination, or yield more abundantly when bees are plentiful.



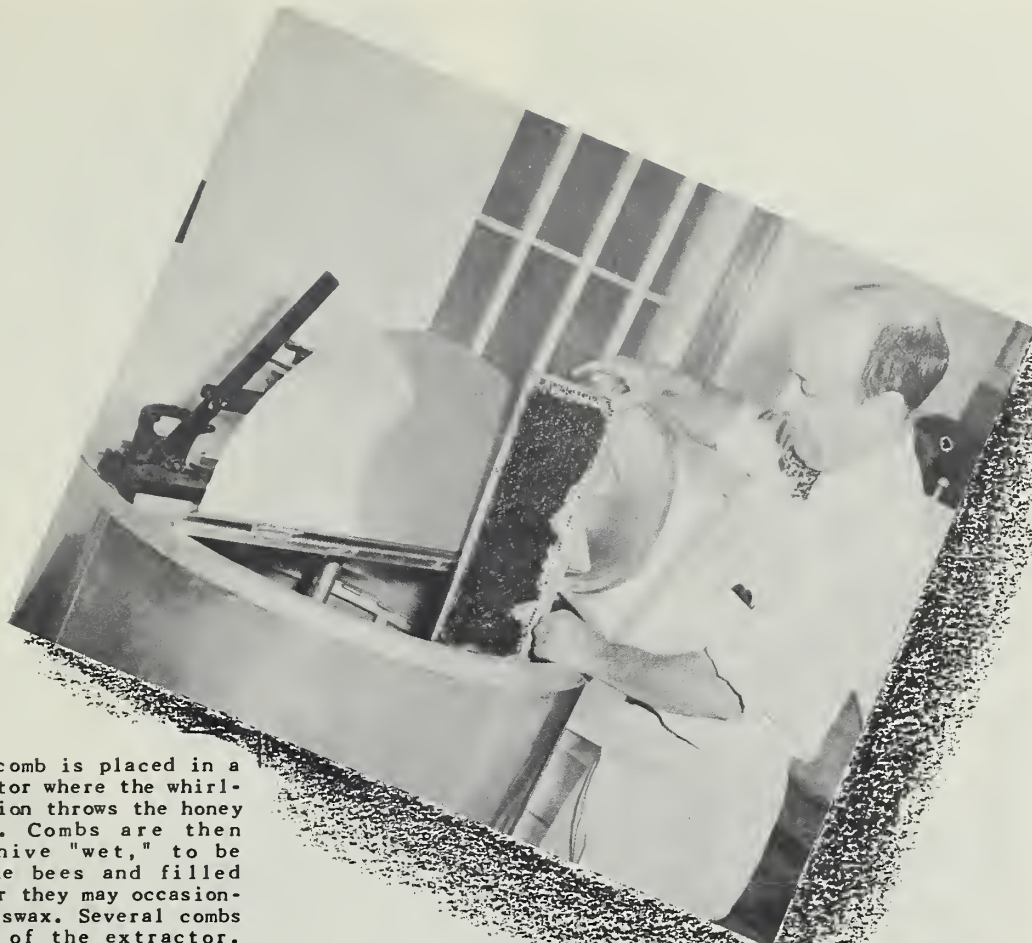
1. These beehives are ideally placed on a well-drained slope at the edge of an orchard. The trees provide shelter from the prevailing winds. Bees have access to the blossoms in nearby fields and pastures as well as to those on the fruit trees. Pollination---the transfer of pollen from flower to flower---is essential to successful agricultural crops. Bees are the most numerous flower-visiting insects. B-61513

2. Prof. George J. Abrams, Apiculturist, University of Maryland, examining comb taken from hive to discover whether honey is ready to extract. Honey is "harvested" from early summer to late fall, depending on the available nectar sources in the locality. Beekeeper wears bee-veil and holds smoker between knees. Before opening the hive, smoke was pumped into it to quiet the bees. PMA-19772



3. Prof. George J. Abrams, Apiculturist, University of Maryland, uncapping honeycomb. Wax cappings are neatly sliced off by an electrically-powered knife and fall into the sieve-bottomed container below. After honey has drained out, wax is removed, to be made into comb foundation or sold for other uses. In 1951 beekeepers removed from the hives 4,705,000 pounds of beeswax---10 percent more than in 1950 and 9 percent above the 1945-49 average. The principal use for beeswax in this country is as an ingredient in cosmetics--handcreams, lipsticks, eyebrow pencils, etc. It is also used in the manufacture of church candles, dental supplies, for polishes, adhesive tapes and for many other purposes, as well as for the comb foundation mentioned above. PMA-19773





4. Uncapped honeycomb is placed in a power-driven extractor where the whirling centrifugal motion throws the honey out of the comb. Combs are then replaced in the hive "wet," to be cleaned out by the bees and filled again with honey. Or they may occasionally be sold as beeswax. Several combs fit into the reel of the extractor. Prof. George J. Abrams, Apiculturist, University of Maryland, is shown operating the extractor. PMA-19774



5. Honey is on the market in several different forms and in almost countless flavors. Most generally used form is *liquid* or *extracted honey* which is sold in containers ranging in size from a few ounces to 5, 10, and even 60 pounds. *Creamed honey* is steadily increasing in favor. Made from extracted honey which has been caused to granulate into minute crystals, it has a creamy texture and a semi-solid but soft consistency. It is sold in round, paraffined paper containers and glass jars. "*Chunk honey*," a combination of liquid and comb honey often sold in wide-mouthed jars, is especially popular in the South. Demand for *honey in the comb*, called *section-comb honey* by the trade, has exceeded supply in many parts of the country in recent years. PMA-19749

6. Mild, delicate-flavored honey is an ideal sweetener for fresh fruits such as grapefruit, berries and peaches. It adds a delectable sweetness to iced drinks, puddings, sauces and many other foods. The "Grapefruit Supreme" of a world-famous hotel is prepared by cutting out the center of the fruit, filling the hollow with mild honey, and allowing it to stand under refrigeration for several hours. PMA-19744



7. Honey on a hot, buttered waffle! Of the myriads of uses for honey probably none has more appeal for many people than this one. Not to say that honey isn't wonderful on hot pancakes and biscuits, too. In fact, delicious, tangy honey on a slice of cold bread is a treat for anyone. PMA-19741

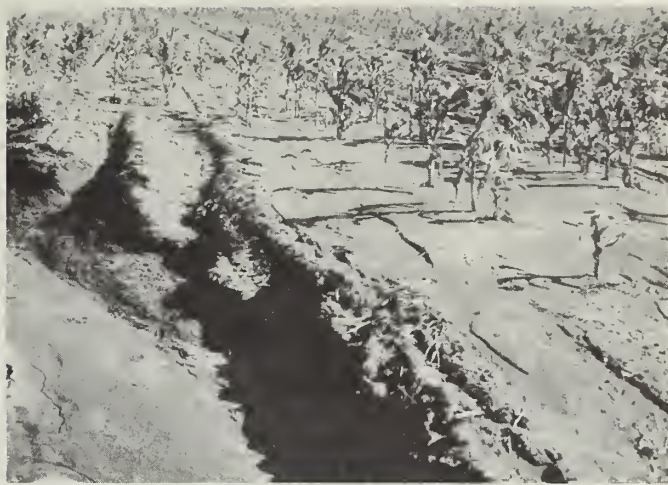


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A modern road as of today

NC-D1-197



Poor farming practices produce low yields.

SD-5341



N-12090

Hybrid corn which has attained considerable growth despite severe draught. This corn is seeded 14,000 stalks per acre following red clover, preceded by wheat in a 3-year rotation. Fertilizer consisting of broadcast 600 lbs. 3-12-6; 200 lbs. 3-12-6 in drill and 200 lbs. cal-nitro side dressing; 5 loads of manure per acre. Lime applied prior to planting



Electricity was unheard of on the farm fifty years ago.

10031



Modern farm living has luxuries unheard of fifty years ago.

9535-D



N-2890



16921

A country store of yesteryear being rapidly replaced by modern merchandising methods.



FCI-280

Steam threshing machines in use many years ago offered greater fire and accident hazards than the present day farming operations.

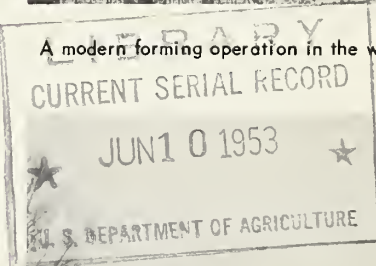


N-7189

A modern farming operation in the wheat fields of North Dakota.



S-12205



S-17710

Today through the same type of self help, farm, and home demonstrations, farm men and women are informed of new methods of farming and home making, mostly developed as a result of research carried on by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Land Grant colleges.

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